(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Project running behind schedule

3855. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects including mega projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of these projects;

(d) the total cost escalation of these projects due to time overrun; and

(e) the steps taken to complete these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.1.2005, 249 projects are running behind schedule.

(c) The reasons for delay in completion of these projects include: (i) Financial Constraints, (ii) Delay in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation, (iii) Delay in Award of Contracts, (iv) Delay in Equipment Supply and Construction, (v) Slow Progress by Contractors, (vi) Delay in Environment and others clearance, (vii) Law and Order, Geological Surprices.

(d) The cost escalation in delayed projects with respect to their latest approved cost is Rs.7,430.6 crore.

(e) The measures taken by the Ministry to ensure completion of pending projects expeditiously include: (i) ensuring funding of projects for implementation as per the work programme; (ii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government; (iii) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities and ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.; (iv) ensuring the Empowered Committee in the administrative Ministries to review the departmentally

executed projects; (v) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving specific problems; and (vi) ensuring the Standing Committees in the Ministries/ Departments to assess and fix responsibility for time and cost overruns of projects.

Works under MPLAD scheme

3856. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that under MPLAD scheme about 6250 works have been executed by district authorities without sanction by concerned Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, in what manner this has happened and who is responsible for this procedural lapse on the part of district administrations;

(c) the amount involved therein and the action that is being taken to fix responsibility; and

(d) the steps Government have initiated to ensure avoid recurrence of such lapses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES). (a) to (d) The Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is implemented through the District Administrations as per the provisions of the Guidelines. However, some works are reported to have been executed by the District Administrations without recommendations of the concerned Member of Parliament. In such cases, the matters have been taken up with the concerned State Governments for immediate appropriate and remedial measures.

Mismanagement of MPLADS funds

3857. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MPLADS funds are being mismanaged;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether there is no proper allocating system in place for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) There are no reports of mismanagement of MPLADS funds. However, some

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.